



National Infrastructure Protection Center

NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 25 February 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- CNN reports war protesters closed 100 Esso gas stations across England and Wales to protest alleged support for possible Iraq war. (See item [2](#))
- The New York Times reports investigators looking into the recent South Korean subway fire, focused on flammable materials, especially seat covers, used in building the cars as the main reason so many lives were lost. (See item [13](#))
- The New York Times reports badges nearly identical to those worn by New York Police Department and New York State Police lieutenants are available over the Internet for a nominal sum, and that with such fake badges, individuals have gained entry to federal buildings. (See item [26](#))
- The National Infrastructure Protection Center has signed an agreement with Indiana University, operator of the Research and Education Network Information Sharing and Analysis Center (REN-ISAC), to ensure that research and education network operators receive the most current counter-terrorist threat alerts, warnings and analysis. (See item [29](#))

NIPC Update Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. **February 24, Reuters** — Nigeria issues alert on missing radioactive cargo. Nigerian authorities said last week they were searching for highly radioactive material used in the oil industry that had gone missing in the oil-producing Niger Delta. The Nigerian Nuclear

Regulatory Authority, in a public notice broadcast on radio and television, warned people to avoid contact with the "highly radioactive, dangerous" material. The authority has declined to identify precisely the material or say how it disappeared. But a senior official, asking not to be identified, told Reuters: "It is used in oil well mapping or logging operations". A logging operation is the process of assessing the size of newly discovered oil reserves. **The two parcels containing the material disappeared around December 3 between the coastal oil cities of Warri and Port Harcourt, he said from the authority's headquarters in Abuja.** The government warning has sent alarm bells ringing in the country of over 120 million people dogged by a string of disasters in which more than 1,000 people have died in just over a year. Source: <http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/19910/story.htm>

2. *February 24, CNN* — **War protesters close fuel stations . Greenpeace has forced 100 Esso petrol stations in the UK to close in what the environmental group called a protest against the company's support for war. Up to 1,000 staff at the headquarters of Esso's British headquarters were also told to stay at home on Monday after protesters climbed onto a glass roof and posed a safety problem, said a spokesman for the UK subsidiary of Texas-based ExxonMobil.** About 300 volunteers targeted outlets across England and Wales, removing power switches that controlled pumps and locking fuel hoses together. Greenpeace said the protest would continue throughout the day but no more of the company's 1,300 garages would be targeted. Instead, members would package up the fuel switches from the 100 petrol stations and send them to ExxonMobil in the United States. **An Esso spokesman denied Greenpeace's claim that the company was pushing for military action in Iraq.** Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/europe/02/24/britain.esso/index.html>

3. *February 23, Chattanooga Times/Free Press* — **Tennessee Valley Authority supplies power through rough winter.** Utility officials said they have comfortably responded to peak power demands and the worst flooding in years because of their ongoing upgrades of TVA's power and river systems. **"We're simply doing more with less and continually looking for processes and systems that improve the way we do business," said TVA President O.J. "Ike" Zeringue. "We truly want to be the best in the industry."** By revamping equipment, streamlining procedures and standardizing business systems, TVA officials say they have managed to boost power output, improve reliability and still save money over the past eight years. TVA is now launching the biggest initiative in its process improvement program. If it is successful, Zeringue expects to save the utility at least \$1 billion from a \$100 million investment. The new system will require TVA to better meter and price the electricity it generates, buys or just transmits. In so doing, TVA expects to limit unnecessary power generation and purchases and ensure it is producing or buying power at the lowest cost. Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3664125

4. *February 21, The Salt Lake Tribune* — **FBI says Utah oil worker made up tale of attack. An ExxonMobil employee's report to police that two Middle Eastern-looking men attacked him and questioned him about plant operations was a hoax, the FBI said Thursday night (February 20).** Police arrested the 26-year-old oil company worker after questioning his story about a Wednesday night beating. The initial report sparked jitters throughout the Four Corners area near the San Juan County oil plant. After numerous interviews with the man, who allegedly inflicted a few minor bruises and scrapes upon himself, investigators obtained a confession that he made up the story. They did not give a motive for the alleged hoax. **"From**

the very beginning investigators realized that he was the only witness, and that raised some flags," said FBI Special Agent George Dougherty. The man was being held on suspicion of giving false statements to federal agents. The case against the man, an operator at the plant, will be screened today by Utah's U.S. Attorney Paul Warner, said Dougherty.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/2003/Feb/02212003/Utah/31528.asp>

5. *February 21, Reuters* — **New power plant build continues despite glut** . Merchant power plants continue to sprout across the United States despite a growing glut of generating capacity, knocking down the value of plants many in the industry are desperate to sell, industry experts said. An estimated 130,000 megawatts of generating capacity are expected to go on the block this year as companies struggle to cope with massive debt, depressed electricity prices and rising fuel costs to run those plants. **Much of the capacity up for sale is in New England, the South and the Midwest, according to Hoff Stauffer, senior consultant at Cambridge Energy Research Associates. Those regions saw the biggest build-up in the past few years resulting in a huge surplus of megawatts in the market, and many generators are increasingly anxious to raise capital through asset sales. Plants near key demand centers will command the most interest from buyers since they avoid bottlenecks on the power grid that currently hamper long distance transmission.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3664593

6. *February 21, United Press International* — **High renewable energy potential in West** . The Bush administration on Friday released an extensive estimate of the potential for renewable energy projects on millions of acres of federal lands in the West. **The report compiled by the Departments of Energy and Interior will give land-use planners a better means of determining which areas might offer the best returns on investments in renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass and geothermal power. "Our public land managers will be able to use this information as a tool for planning purposes as we work to increase our domestic sources of renewable energy," Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management Rebecca Watson told a news conference in Colorado.**

"Currently, renewable energy, including hydropower accounts for only 9 percent of our nation's energy, but is the fastest growing segment of our energy supply," Watson said. "As the report demonstrates, public lands have abundant opportunities for renewable energy development." Factors such as weather and terrain were taken into account in the survey as were the proximity of the BLM lands to roads and towns that would be utilized by project employees and the availability of transmission lines to carry the environmentally friendly power to market.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=comtex_2003_02_21_up_0000-0249-bc-us-energyl_andsa>

7. *February 21, Reuters* — **Dominion drops planned North Carolina power plant. Dominion Resources Inc., facing a deteriorating merchant energy market, said Friday it has canceled plans to build a \$600 million power plant in near Roxboro in north-central North Carolina.** The proposed plant was to be natural gas-fired, with a 1,100 megawatt generating capacity, roughly enough to supply a million homes, and had a tentative startup date in 2005. "Changing market circumstances would no longer support development of the site," Dominion spokesman Hunter Applewhite said. He declined to elaborate on the company's decision. **Merchant plants, unlike those owned by state regulated electric utilities, sell**

power mainly to commercial and industrial customers, offering any surplus power to the spot market.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3664277

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *February 23, Reuters* — **Italian protesters to block U.S. arms shipments.** Anti-war protesters on Sunday vowed to block all movement of U.S. arms by rail between American bases in Italy, dubbing the convoys "trains of death", while dock workers pledged to stop handling U.S. war cargo. **A day after demonstrators squatted on railway tracks and forced long delays in two shipments, organisers said they were gearing up for a full assault on similar convoys next week.** Anti-war protest leader Luca Casarini told Reuters on Sunday, "We're taking matters into our own hands. We're taking stock of all shipments between U.S. bases planned this week and we're going to try and block them all." The Defence Ministry has given the United States clearance to use military bases and ports in Italy in line with long-standing NATO commitments. The labour union that represents almost 90 percent of dock workers said it would boycott the loading and unloading of all shipments of U.S. arms coming in and out of Italian ports. **Protesters and labour unions are hoping to hamper war preparations being carried out at the seven U.S. military bases in Italy and its ports. They have focused on the biggest base, Camp Darby, home to huge ammunitions stocks in Livorno, Tuscany.**

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/030223/iraq_italy_protest_1.html

9. *February 23, Washington Post* — **Military towns pinched by buildup in Gulf.** In cities and towns whose economies rely on bustling military bases, the massive deployment of the nation's armed forces that began last month, and continues, is beginning to disrupt or wreck many businesses. Here in Oceanside, about 30 miles north of San Diego and just a short walk from Camp Pendleton, it is hard to find a shopkeeper who is not beleaguered by the buildup in the Persian Gulf region. Some have cut their hours of operation, or dismissed employees. Others already have given up trying to find new customers and are closed. **It is hardly the first time that so many military men and women have left town for extended duty overseas, but the exodus never gets easier. And this deployment is more unnerving than others, merchants say, because no one knows whether there will be a conflict, or when it will begin. Many also say they fear that war this time with Iraq may last longer and prove to be much more treacherous than Operation Desert Storm was more than a decade ago.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A50227-2003Feb 22.html>

10. *February 21, Associated Press* — **U.S. has spent \$28 billion so far fighting terror, Pentagon says.** The costs of a war with Iraq would be on top of the \$28 billion the U.S. military has

already spent battling terrorists in Afghanistan and around the world since the Sept. 11 attacks, Pentagon officials said. Excluding preparations for confronting Iraq, that is what the Pentagon had spent through last Sept. 30, said Defense Department spokesman Lt. Col. Gary Keck on Friday. **The global fight against terrorism is now averaging \$1.6 billion monthly, including \$750 million in Afghanistan, he said. The antiterror spending compares with an overall defense budget of \$366 billion for the federal budget year that started last Oct. 1.** But that amount is expected to grow significantly in coming weeks, with or without a war. Members of Congress and aides said that in coming weeks they expect President George W. Bush to request \$20 billion more for the military for this year – excluding any costs of a war with Iraq. **The money would be for replenishing accounts the Pentagon has dipped into for its ongoing campaigns in Afghanistan, the Philippines and elsewhere abroad. In addition, the military has incurred more security expenses at home, such as air patrols over some major U.S. cities.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&p_w_o_e_n_g_e_n_a_g_e_n_u_s_w_a_r_c_o_s_t_s_s_o_f_a_r_1

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *February 20, Associated Press* — **U.S. House panel head says India weak link in fighting money laundering.** India is a "weak link" in the global fight against money laundering that aids terrorism and the country's central bank has been unable to stop the practice, a U.S. Congress member said Thursday. **"India is not complying with international standards to stop money laundering. The United States is concerned, the U.S. Congress is concerned," James Sensenbrenner, who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, told journalists at a U.S. Embassy press conference.** Sensenbrenner welcomed India's new anti-money laundering law, passed this year, noting that the Reserve Bank of India has started to put together an investigative team. He urged that the group be formed quickly. Officials of India's External Affairs Ministry had no immediate comment.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&p_w_o_e_n_p_o_a_s_g_e_n_i_n_d_i_a_u_s_m_o_n_e_y_l_a_u_n_d_e_r_i_n_g_2

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Transportation Sector

12. *February 24, U.S. Department of Transportation* — **Federal Transit Administration launches emergency preparedness forum in San Diego, CA.** Jennifer L. Dorn, Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), will open its "Connecting Communities: Emergency Preparedness and Security Forum" in San Diego on Feb. 26 – 27. The forums were created to help communities become better prepared to respond to emergency situations. Using the successful evacuation of the transit stations below the World Trade Center as a benchmark, the goal of the forums is to demonstrate the important role that transit plays in crisis situations and the importance of delivering a coordinated regional response to any emergency. **Participating transit agencies will work with regional emergency responders to determine**

the effectiveness of interagency response plans for the San Diego region. The forums have been created in cooperation with FTA's partners, the American Public Transportation Association and the Federal Railroad Administration. The FTA has been working with the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) to host the forum. **FTA's five-part Security Initiative includes evaluating threats and vulnerabilities through a security assessment; developing a plan to address vulnerabilities; testing the plan in realistic situations; training employees to understand and implement the plan; and undertaking research to enhance human capabilities.**

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fta0503.htm>

13. *February 22, New York Times* — Use of dangerous materials cited in Korean subway fire.

Investigators looking into the fire that took the lives of more than 130 people on two subway trains in South Korea on Tuesday zeroed in on **flammable materials, especially seat covers, used in building the cars as the main reason so many lives were lost.** The blaze, set off when a man ignited a container of paint thinner with a cigarette lighter, **spread quickly, reaching approximately 2,000 degrees in heat, because of the materials, including the insulation, the vinyl and plastic material used for seat cushions and strap handles, and the heavy plastic matting on the floors,** investigators said. The heat was so intense that it rapidly carried flames from the first train to the second, and down the cars of each train, twisting aluminum, turning strap handles and floor covering to wax and burning bodies so totally that identification of most will never be possible. **Most of the deaths and injuries were caused by inhalation of toxic fumes from the vinyl and plastic seat cushions.** Investigators also described **faulty emergency signals, poor communications and misjudgment on the part of subway workers** with little or no training in how to cope with crisis.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/22/international/asia/22KORE.html>

14. *February 21, Associated Press* — Flight restrictions tripled around Bush during Code Orange risk level. Authorities are expanding the restricted air space around President Bush because of the high-risk Code Orange threat alert, the Federal Aviation Administration said Friday.

Authorities are expanding the restricted air space around President Bush because of the high-risk Code Orange threat alert, the Federal Aviation Administration said Friday. Greg Martin, FAA spokesman, said the agency imposed the more stringent limits on airspace around the president because of the heightened threat alert. "Under an increased threat level, we'll take appropriate measures to increase security," Martin said. The restrictions are expected to be eased when the threat level returns to code yellow. In normal times, aircraft are not allowed below 3,000 feet within three nautical miles of the president. **The new restricted area, banned below 10,000 feet for 10 nautical miles, is becoming the new standard for Bush when he travels,** the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association said.

Source: <http://ap.tbo.com/ap/breaking/MGAGHE4VGCD.html>

15. *February 21, Agence France-Presse* — Light plane hijack prompts calls to tighten airport security. Australian authorities faced calls Thursday to tighten security at regional airports after a man hijacked a light plane at knife-point and forced the pilot to fly to a town in Queensland state. Kelly Witchard, 28, of Queensland, appeared in court Thursday accused of forcing the pilot of a six-seater Cessna aircraft to fly from an airstrip near Rockhampton to Mackay, 300 km north. The pair were the only people on the plane during Wednesday's incident, which lasted 90 minutes. The pilot was released unharmed. **Queensland**

Premier Peter Beattie said the hijacking was a "wake-up call" for the authorities, who initially feared it was a terrorist act. Police said they initiated anti-terrorism procedures when alerted to the hijacking. Air traffic in the state was disrupted during the incident and a number of planes in the area were grounded.

Source: <http://straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/world/story/0.4386.172954.0.0.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *February 21, U.S. Customs Service* — **Container Security Initiative expands beyond the megaports.** U.S. Customs Commissioner Robert C. Bonner announced that the **Container Security Initiative (CSI) participating ports of Bremerhaven and Hamburg, Germany are now operational. Bremerhaven and Hamburg join the already operational CSI ports of Rotterdam and LeHavre in Europe and Montreal, Halifax, and Vancouver in Canada. The port of Antwerp is expected to be operational by February 25.** Rotterdam became operational on September 2, 2002 and LeHavre on December 2, 2002. The three Canadian ports were operational in March of 2002. To date, **18 of the top 20 megaports have committed to joining CSI and are at various stages of implementation.** These megaports are points of passage for approximately two-thirds of containers shipped to the United States. They include (by container cargo volume): Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Rotterdam, Pusan, Bremerhaven, Tokyo, Genoa, Yantian, Antwerp, Nagoya, Le Havre, Hamburg, La Spezia, Felixstowe, Algeciras, Kobe, Yokahama. "Now that we have nearly achieved our goal for CSI at most of the top 20 ports, **we are quickly expanding CSI to all ports that ship substantial amounts of cargo to the United States, and that have the infrastructure and technology in place to participate in the program,**" Commissioner Bonner said.

Source: http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press_releases/02212.003.xml

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Agriculture Sector

17. *February 24, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Flower disease may pose danger to potato crop.** Wisconsin agriculture officials are keeping a close eye on a destructive plant disease which could devastate the state's potato crop if it were to get out of control. **According to Nick Neher, Agricultural Resource Management division administrator, a dozen greenhouses in the state are being inspected and monitored to ensure the bacteria Ralstonia solanacearum, also known as southern wilt, does not spread. So far, two greenhouses were found to have geraniums infected with the bacteria.** One particular strain, referred to as 'race 3 biovar 2' poses a threat to agricultural crops. **"While there are many strains of the Ralstonia solanacearum bacteria, laboratory tests confirmed that geraniums in one greenhouse were infected with the race 3 biovar 2 strain which is extremely destructive to potatoes, tobacco, peppers, tomatoes and eggplant," Neher said.** "In the other greenhouse, we know the geraniums are infected with Ralstonia but we are waiting for confirmation of the bacterial strain." **Wisconsin ranks third for potato production in the U.S. and is a major source of seed potatoes, so eradicating this disease is critical.**

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=237&yr=2003>

18. *February 23, Star-Telegram (Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX)* — **No cure found for kill that has hit 4.4 million Granbury fish. The golden algae outbreak that has killed several million fish at Lake Granbury and other reservoirs is a perplexing situation for fisheries researchers in Texas.** While anglers, scientists, and water-control authorities search for an answer, none of any significance has surfaced. And the situation at Granbury continues to worsen. **Estimates of the number of fish lost at the Brazos River impoundment since the outbreak began two weeks ago are more than 4.4 million, and biologists say the kill appears to have accelerated in recent days, claiming mostly shad but also largemouth bass, striped bass, crappie, sand bass, and catfish.** Fish also continue to die at lakes Red Bluff, Possum Kingdom, Spence, Colorado City, and Moss Creek, two Lubbock city lakes and in the tailrace below Lake Meredith. **In all, four river systems, Pecos, Colorado, Canadian, and Brazos are affected.**

Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/sports/5245244.htm>

19. *February 23, San Bernardino County Sun* — **Exotic Newcastle disease found at Ontario ranch. The virus that causes Exotic Newcastle disease has been detected at a commercial poultry ranch in Ontario, CA officials said Saturday.** The discovery of the virus at the Ontario facility which officials did not identify by name and another commercial premise in Valley Center in San Diego County brings the number of commercial ranches affected by Newcastle to 17, government officials said in a news release Saturday. **So far, 2.25 million birds at commercial ranches have been killed in an effort to stop the spread of the disease. In addition, more than 645,000 birds are in the process of being slaughtered, officials said.**

Source: <http://www.sbsun.com/Stories/0,1413,208~12588~1198525,00.htm>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

20. *February 24, Water Tech Online* — **Senator urges New Mexico to address water shortages now, or pay later.** U.S. Senator Peter Domenici wants to help New Mexicans find innovative ways of addressing future water needs in light of a new federal report that throws open the question of long-term availability of the resource in the region. The report from the U.S. Geological Survey, entitled "Groundwater Resources of the Middle Rio Grande," presents a new, scientifically based scenario about the quantity of water available in the region where nearly half the state's population resides, Domenici said in a news release. **The study outlines limits to the aquifer that serves the area, and the impact of population growth, and other forces on groundwater supplies. Domenici said he will work to enlist federal government assistance for New Mexico and middle Rio Grande communities in overcoming water problems, including meeting new federal arsenic standards and addressing growing water**

demands for residential and business growth.

Source: <http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4font>>

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Public Health Sector

21. *February 24, Washington Post* — **Smallpox inoculation plan near standstill. When President Bush issued the call for 500,000 volunteer health care workers to be immunized against smallpox, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson promised to get the job done in 30 days. At today's one-month mark, however, the total number of people inoculated nationwide is just 4,200 less than 1 percent of the administration's target for the first phase of bioterrorism preparations.** "It is as close to stalled as you can get," said William Bicknell, former Massachusetts health commissioner and a professor at the Boston University School of Public Health. Although the federal government has shipped 274,000 doses of vaccine to states since the program began Jan. 24, hundreds of hospitals, a half-dozen major unions and even some public health departments have refused to participate. Bicknell said that until the government reaches President Bush's ultimate goal of vaccinating millions of medical personnel and emergency responders, "we are not protected." **In the event of a smallpox attack, those are the medical and emergency workers who would be needed to treat early cases and rapidly open mass vaccination clinics for the rest of the population.** Experts believe that many people can survive a smallpox exposure if they are vaccinated within 96 hours.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55239-2003Feb 23.html>

22. *February 24, Reuters* — **No human gene found in Hong Kong bird flu virus. A bird flu virus that infected two Hong Kong people this month contains no human genes, meaning the risk of person to person transmission is low, the Hong Kong government said Monday.** A 33-year-old Hong Kong man died last Monday of pneumonia and doctors confirmed he had contracted the virus H5N1 after visiting relatives who keep chickens in China's southern Fujian province. His nine-year-old son was also infected but recovered. They were the first cases of bird flu passing to humans since an outbreak in the territory killed six people in 1997, triggering worldwide alarm. **"Results of the laboratory tests show that the virus genes were purely avian in origin," a spokesman for the Hong Kong Department of Health said in a statement. "In the absence of human genes in the virus, the risk of human to human transmission will be low."**

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/reuters20030224_221.html

23. *February 22, Associated Press* — **Texas Tech professor carried plague on airlines. The Texas Tech University researcher accused of lying to the FBI about missing vials of plague bacteria repeatedly carried live samples of the germ aboard commercial airliners, a newspaper reported.** Thomas Butler's attorney, Floyd Holder, told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal that the professor imported plague about 60 times over the past 30 years, but said his method of transporting the specimens was "absolutely safe." Holder said he believes federal authorities probably will file additional charges against Butler accusing him of failing to go through proper channels in importing live plague samples. Transporting such biological material requires permits and other documents. Holder said Butler transported

specimens of the plague-causing organism *Yersinia pestis* by securing them in a plastic container in his luggage, the newspaper reported Friday. He obtained the specimens from infected people in Tanzania. **Vickie Sutton, director of Tech's Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy, said there could have been outbreaks of pneumonic plague if one of Butler's vials had broken. "The very reason that we have controls for these select agents is because there's a public health risk," Sutton said.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/Southwest/02/22/bubonic.plague.ap/>

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Government Sector

24. *February 25, Washington Post* — Washington area homeland security coordinator named. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge named his aide Michael F. Byrne the first federal homeland security coordinator for the Washington area today. Byrne, a former New York City firefighter and the number-two Federal Emergency Management Agency official in charge of the World Trade Center clean-up, vowed to "maximize local, regional and federal support" for the national capital area in a closed-door meeting with 80 Washington-area business leaders in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building this morning. The position was required under the law passed last fall that created the 190,000-worker Department of Homeland Security and came at the urging of the business community and Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md.). **Byrne will be responsible for coordinating the efforts of all government agencies and working with the District, Maryland and Virginia.** Area lawmakers wanted to create a single point of contact in the immense new department, and the legislation charges Byrne with helping secure federal aid for the region, directing research and technical support locally and streamlining training and planning among federal, state and local governments as well as the private sector.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60621-2003Feb 24.html>

25. *February 23, Los Angeles Times* — Anti-terror readiness still lacking. Government agencies in Los Angeles County have spent tens of millions of dollars over the last 18 months to protect the area from a possible terrorist attack, but officials say they have not been able to find money for key safety measures. **Los Angeles has spent more than \$90 million to bolster security at Los Angeles International Airport, and the county has spent about \$28 million to set up bioterrorism response units. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power bought two helicopters for \$4.4 million, upgraded water testing and hired more security officers to patrol reservoirs stretching from the Owens Valley to Silver Lake.** Meanwhile, as the new federal Department of Homeland Security urges Americans to prepare for possible terrorist attacks, **the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles report that they are waiting for federal funds to help them identify and inspect suspicious cargo containers.** A countywide early warning group, set up as a federal pilot project to coordinate information sharing among more than 80 cities, is operating on a shoestring budget. And many cities in the area continue to use communication systems that are incompatible with one another, making it impossible for them to communicate with one another in case of an attack.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-prepare23feb23001506.1.4212598.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dcalifornia>

Emergency Services Sector

26. *February 24, New York Times* — Pushing to put fake badges beyond reach of fake police.

Hoping to stem the purchase of fake police badges that could be used by terrorists, Representative Anthony D. Weiner said yesterday that he would introduce a bill to restrict their sale nationwide. **New York State law prohibits the purchase of police badges, real or fake, by civilians. Although a bill passed in 2000 by Congress made it a federal crime to sell replica badges across state lines, they can still be legally purchased by someone wishing to use them for "recreational purposes" within the state where they are bought.** Badges nearly identical to those worn by New York Police Department and New York State Police lieutenants are available over the Internet for \$29.95; those for higher-ranking officials sell for about \$80. Each year, the New York Police Department receives more than 1,200 complaints about someone impersonating a police officer, officials said. **A study by the General Accounting Office in 2000 found that plainclothes officers showing fake badges easily gained access to federal buildings including the headquarters of the CIA, the FBI, and the Justice Department, as well as the Pentagon. They were not searched or asked for additional identification.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/24/nyregion/24BADG.html>

27. *February 24, Associated Press* — Grenade, rifle found in Tampa building. A maintenance worker found one rifle, two boxes of ammunition and a grenade at a Florida state office building Monday, causing the temporary evacuation of 400 workers, officials said. **Workers were allowed back in the building and surrounding streets were reopened by 10:15 a.m., after bomb-sniffing dogs found no other explosive devices in the building.** "Everything is back to normal," said Carlos Baixauli, an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. **Baixauli said the items were found in a second-floor storage area sometime before 8 a.m. The maintenance worker then pulled the fire alarm to evacuate the building. Tampa police spokeswoman Katie Hughes said the items belonged to someone who worked in the building. That person was not identified and no arrests have been made.** Officials could not say if the grenade was live. The bomb squad planned to disassemble the grenade and render it inoperable, Baixauli said.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story_p_on_re_us/grenade_found_3

28. *February 23, International Herald Tribune* — U.S. is behind European nations on crowd safety, experts say. Experts say the United States, despite being a litigious society where safety is often seen as paramount, is surprisingly vulnerable to such events and has done less than many other countries to prevent them. **In European nations and some other countries, fire safety rules as well as standards for concerts and nightclub events are generally set on a national basis. In the United States, fire regulations are determined by individual states or local governments, based on two different sets of standards, one being the Basic Fire Code and the other the Uniform Fire Code. In addition, the concert promotion industry in the United States has vigorously resisted efforts to impose uniform regulations for such events, said Paul Wertheimer, who runs Crowd Management Strategies, a consulting firm based in Chicago. "I don't know of another industry in America that is involved with crowds**

and pays so little attention to safety," Wertheimer said. "Overseas, at least they acknowledge the need for a consistent approach to the problem on a national basis." Strict regulations alone do not necessarily prevent disaster, particularly when part of the appeal of rock concerts or nightclubs is a feeling of breaking the rules. Lax enforcement can be equally to blame.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/23/international/23CND-CLUB.html>

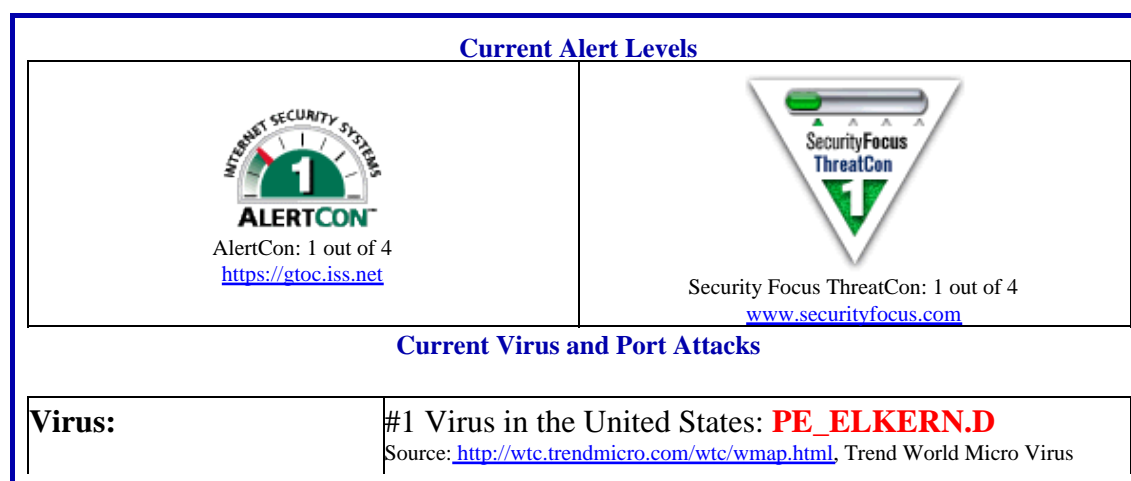
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Information and Telecommunications Sector

29. February 25, National Infrastructure Protection Center — NIPC and Indiana University agree on cooperative cyber infrastructure security efforts. In an effort to support and enhance the security and readiness of the cyber infrastructure, the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) has signed an agreement with Indiana University, operator of the Research and Education Network Information Sharing and Analysis Center (REN-ISAC). **Indiana University, via the REN-ISAC, will ensure that research and education network operators receive the most current counter-terrorist threat alerts, warnings and analysis.** In turn, the **network operators and participating universities and research centers will be encouraged to work through the NIPC to voluntarily pass incident information.** Incident information will include not only specific incidents immediately threatening participating networks, but trend information that may indicate an organized attack is in preparation or underway. **"The Nation's research and education networks carry not only information critical to research but critical commercial and financial information as well. That is why information sharing between the federal government and network operators is vital in the war against terrorism,"** said Admiral James Plehal, Acting Director of the NIPC. **"Advance knowledge of the type and nature of attacks can make a vital difference in their readiness to prevent, and mitigate the consequences of an attack,"** he said. Indiana University is home to a Global Network Operations Center (Global NOC) which manages several national and international high-speed networks and network links. The NIPC will transition into the Department of Homeland Security on March 1st.

Source: <http://www.nipc.gov/pressroom/pressrel/NIPCIandIU.htm>

Internet Alert Dashboard



	Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 80 (www), 113 (ident), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 445 (microsoft-ds), 25 (smtp), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 53 (domain), 139 (netbios-ssn) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

30. *February 25, Washington Post* — **Kuwait arrests three in alleged plot.** On Monday, **Kuwait arrested three Islamic radicals allegedly planning to attack the growing U.S. military force assembling in the Persian Gulf emirate** in preparation for a possible invasion of neighboring Iraq, the Interior Ministry announced. **The three men, all Kuwaitis who expressed sympathy for Osama bin Laden, were plotting to ambush one of the many U.S. military convoys that travel up and down Kuwaiti highways every day,** according to authorities. Security officials said that the men had been under surveillance for some time and that weapons and ammunition were found at the home where they were arrested.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A62020-2003Feb 24.html>
31. *February 24, Washington Post* — **Activists' 'inspection' ends at base's gate.** An international group of peace activists, trying to turn the tables on the U.S. government, donned some official-looking badges, called themselves a team of international weapons inspectors and tried to "inspect" an Army facility near Baltimore. **Facing a driving rain, and military policemen ordering them to cease and desist, the group was forced to turn around about 30 yards from the entrance to the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground.** The delegation barely had time to park a quarter-mile from the entrance and unfurl their white signs saying "Warning: This Site May Contain Weapons of Mass Destruction" when they were approached by Department of Defense Police Capt. Floyd Rose. The group then walked to the barrier, where they spoke briefly with Mercer before being ordered to move back and stop blocking traffic. **A brief news conference then ensued by the side of the road before the group was ordered to leave.**
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55875-2003Feb 23.html>
32. *February 24, Reuters* — **UK muslim cleric guilty of urging followers to kill.** A London-based Muslim cleric accused of supporting Osama bin Laden was found guilty Monday of urging his followers to kill "enemies of Islam" in a holy war against non-believers. **Jamaican-born Sheikh Abdullah el-Faisal, 39, was convicted of three rare charges of incitement to murder. He was also found guilty of three counts of stirring up racial hatred through the use of threatening and abusive words in person and through video or audio recordings.** Faisal, who was arrested by British anti-terrorist police last year, will be sentenced next week. The charges are punishable by life imprisonment.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A57870-2003Feb 24.html>
33. *February 22, Reuters* — **Germany warns of heightened terror attack threat.** The German

government warned the public on Saturday the threat of terror attacks was higher than at any time since September 11, 2001 and said **unguarded targets such as offices, nightclubs and churches were most vulnerable**. Interior Minister Otto Schily said security experts both in Germany and abroad had concluded that Osama bin Laden's **al Qaeda organization**, blamed for the 2001 attacks on the United States, **had reorganised and was planning new strikes**. "It can't be predicted what al Qaeda's next targets may be," Schily told WDR radio. "The organization plans long term and counts on a surprise effect. The attacks are aimed against so-called 'soft targets' not protected with military means." Because public places such as office buildings, nightclubs and churches could not be protected round the clock, Schily said it was crucial that the public be given as much advance warning as possible. He said the analysis was based, among other sources, on remarks made by al Qaeda leaders recently. Schily said in a separate interview with the Welt am Sonntag newspaper the German government had already reinforced security measures at vital utilities such as water works, energy plants and communication centres.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L22448812>

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NIPC Products & Contact Information

The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability, and law enforcement investigation and response entity. The NIPC provides timely warnings of international threats, comprehensive analysis and law enforcement investigation and response. The NIPC provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the NIPC web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following NIPC products:

NIPC Warnings – NIPC Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: The NIPC produces three levels of infrastructure warnings which are developed and distributed consistent with the FBI's National Threat Warning System. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

NIPC Publications – NIPC Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

NIPC Daily Reports Archive – Access past NIPC Daily Reports

NIPC Daily Open Source Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the NIPC Daily Report Team at 202-324-1129

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Contact NIPC

To report any incidents or to request information from NIPC, contact the NIPC Watch at nipc.watch@fbi.gov or call 202-323-3204.

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